

PREFACE

OF the making of books upon the
South Seas
there is no end, and there probably will
be no end
for a long time. For example, a novel
of Polynesia as it is to-day has not yet been
written, and
should be. But of books about Tahiti in
especial
there might be thought to be enough.

I thought so myself at first, but when
I came to
know the island a little I was not so
sure. It has
been written up from the
geographical, the his-
torical, the missionary, and the
romantic stand-
point—especially the romantic—but of
one aspect
of it little has been said. A score of
writers and
artists of note have sought in Tahiti the
fulfilment
of a dream, and I do not think that

their dreams
have ever been gathered together.
Here, then,
I make the attempt. That is the thread
that holds
these chapters together. A local
photographer,